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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

ORIGINAL
FILE
Room 222
DOCKETS

10 FEB 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7330-7/1700A3

Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Helms:

This is in reply to your letter of January 29, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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CODE

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Honorable Jesse Helms

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituents' concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due February 26, 1993, and Reply Comments are due April 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued near the end of 1993. We urge your constituents to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ralph A. Haller", written in a cursive style.

Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:
Notice
Discussion paper

Congressional

DUK 2-10-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
02/02/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300356	02/02/93	01/29/93	02/15/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Jesse Helms	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/John 5-3-93			

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
02/02/93			

REMARKS: Contact person: Jimmy Broughton, 224-6342.

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PRIVATE RECORDS

JESSE HELMS
NORTH CAROLINA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3301

January 29, 1993

PLB
92-235
356

Mr. Steve Klitzman
Associate Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

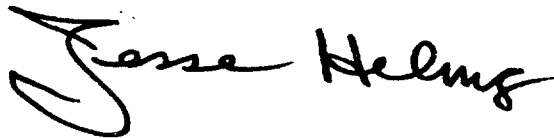
Dear Mr. Klitzman:

I recently received the enclosed letters from North Carolinians expressing concern about FCC NPRM PR Docket 92-235.

I appreciate any comments you have regarding this matter. Should you have any further questions, please contact Jimmy Broughton of my staff at 224-6342.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



JESSE HELMS:jb

RECEIVED
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PRIVATE

1993 JAN 21 AM 9:20

George F. Abbott
8712 Westlake Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27613

January 15, 1993

The Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: FCC NPRM PR Docket 92-235

Dear Senator Helms,

I write to strongly oppose the action proposed in FCC NPRM PR Docket 92-235 involves the allocation of frequencies to support the Land Mobile Service. These channels, which I understand are proposed to be allocated under Part 88, will conflict with the frequencies currently allocated under Part 95 for the use of radio controlled model aircraft.

While at first glance the use of radio spectrum for hobby purposes may seem frivolous, the fact is that model hobby industry is a large and healthy industry. It not only provides recreation, but provides a valuable educational opportunity for the young, and not so young. This was recently recognized by the FCC when the current radio control channels were allocated. It is estimated that there are more than two hundred thousand active modelers in the United States today, and many, if not most of these would be effected by the proposed changes.

I am an adult, a professional engineer, a retired engineering manager with IBM, currently on the engineering faculty* at NCSU, a licensed Commercial Pilot and Certified Flight Instructor, a licensed Aircraft Mechanic, and an active modeler. I'm 65 years old, and have been active in modeling for more than 55 years. I belong to a model club of some 50 members. I have over the years worked with many youths to help them get established in this educational hobby. Some of them have gone on to careers related to aviation, and all have benefited from their exposure to this hobby. Personally, the benefits that I derived from this hobby have been of inestimable value to me in my personal and professional life. I believe that it is worthwhile to support an activity that fosters craftsmanship, understanding of technology and is entertaining as well. I'm sure that you will agree that there few such activities available to our youth today.

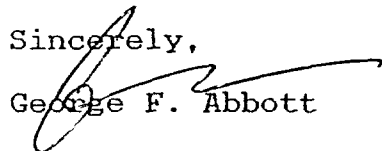
Technically, the proposed rule changes would place Land Mobile Service frequencies only 2.5 kHz from the existing radio control channels. Currently there is a 10 kHz guard band between adjacent channels. The specifications for the proposed Land Mobile Service permit a frequency tolerance that will virtually guarantee interference. It would appear that the FCC did not coordinate between their own Part 88 and Part 95 services.

The consequences of this proposed change if implemented are several:

1. Some 2/3 of the frequencies currently allocated to radio control will be rendered unsafe. This will necessitate the expense of converting equipment to other frequencies, and reduce the capacity of flying sites to accommodate modelers. It effectively negates the allocation of the Part 95 frequencies recently put in place by the FCC.
2. Most important is the safety hazard. Since the proposed service is mobile, there is no way that a radio control modeler can know if operation on a particular frequency is in jeopardy. Currently at most flying fields it is known which frequencies are subject to interference and should be avoided. The consequences of interference are possible destruction of an airplane which is expensive both financially and in personal effort expended in building it, but much more important the possibility that airplane will go out of control and crash resulting in property damage, personal injury or death. Model airplanes may weigh up to 55 pounds and may travel at speeds of more than 100 miles per hour. The modelers' major association, the Academy of Model of Aeronautics, which provides insurance for modeling activities has established a set of comprehensive safety practices and rules that must be observed at all chartered and sanctioned flying sites and activities. Consequently the hobby enjoys an excellent safety record, in particular with regard to spectators. If the proposed frequency changes are put into effect there is potential for great risk to both modelers and by-standers.

I hope that you will use your influence to prevent the adoption of this poorly thought out proposal.

Sincerely,


George F. Abbott

Jimmy

Jan. 18, 1993
5969 Dixon Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609

The Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sir:

I have just learned that the FCC is considering changing the allocation of some frequencies. The action is under the title of NPRM PR Docket 92-235. Under this plan, all the radio equipment I use in my hobby will be obsolete. I will have to expend almost \$1000 to replace the obsoleted equipment. Please do whatever you can to stop this action.

Sincerely,



Hoyt M. Stewart

1993 JAN 21 PM 2:20

January 13, 1992

Jimmy
The Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senator
Washington, DC 20510

1993 JAN 17 AM 9:52

Dear Senator Helms:

I derive many hours of enjoyment from constructing and flying radio controlled model aircraft. I have been interested in aviation for as long as I can remember. I am very active in a local club whose over 50 members also enjoy building and flying radio controlled model aircraft.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of radio frequencies presently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and the attendant liability for controlling model aircraft.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now, the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model aircraft, only 19 frequencies will be left usable if the new rules are adopted.

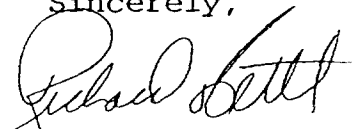
When we fly our radio control model aircraft, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of our property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination of the use of radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is reduced as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model aircraft have wingspans of 10 feet or more and weigh as much as 30 to 40 pounds, some reaching airspeeds of over 100 miles per hour. The models themselves are expensive to build: but more to the point, they are capable of causing extensive property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the model. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to have a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. Personally, I own and operate 4 complete radio transmitter/receiver sets, each valued at over \$500.00. If this new plan were to be enacted, all of my equipment would become unusable. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself. I belong to the Academy of Model Aeronautics, (AMA), which presently has over 200,000 members who regularly use the assigned frequencies for radio controlled model aircraft. Our hobby contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry. Also, the extensive use of Remotely Piloted Vehicles, (RPV), during the Desert Storm military involvement, was directly related to and developed from radio controlled model aircraft.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72 - 76 MHz band.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard L. Pettit".

Richard L. Pettit

Leader Member, Academy of Model Aeronautics #1056

Amateur Radio License KJ4IN (Advanced)